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EGYPT

Following is text of the statement:

In response to an invitation from the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, paid an official, cordial visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 1 to 5 March 1974. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, received Mr Andrey Gromyko. Several matters, particularly those related to Egyptian-Soviet relations were discussed during the meeting in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Isma'il Fahmi, foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, held talks in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. These talks dealt with international issues of interest to both sides, primarily the Middle East question. They also concerned matters related to developing the relations between the two states.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Muhammad Riyad, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Muhammad Shukri, head of the East European Section Ambassador Kamal ad-Din Zaki, and Director of the Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Umar Sirri. They were attended on the Soviet side by: Mikhail Sytenko, chief Middle Eastern countries department at the Foreign Ministry; Yuriy Chernyakov, member of the Foreign Ministry Collegium and Foreign Ministry secretary general; Vasilii Makarov, senior assistant to the foreign minister; and Pogos Akopov, acting charge d'affaires at the USSR Embassy.

The two sides confirmed their resolve and desire to continue strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between them in the various fields on the strong, longterm bases laid down by the Egyptian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty signed on 27 May 1971.

The two sides agreed that the level of relations they have attained through years of cooperation in the various fields is of extreme importance not only to the USSR and the Arab Republic of Egypt, but also to the cause of strengthening peace. Thus, the two sides are determined to preserve and develop these relations, which have been founded on the basis of the common struggle against colonialism, imperialism and aggression and preventing the undermining of these relations.

There were detailed debates of the questions connected with the Middle East situation during the discussions. The two sides reiterated the necessity to strive by all means to reach a just and durable solution to the problem in the manner stipulated in Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 and Resolution 338 of 22 October 1973, which provide for Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories and for guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In this regard, the two sides reaffirmed that the implementation of the agreement on Egyptian-Israeli forces disengagement must be considered as a first step toward reaching this aim and as an indivisible part of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The two sides expressed their readiness to carry out a practical discussion of all aspects of a settlement in the Middle East within the framework of the Geneva conference, whose convocation they consider to be an important success for the peace-loving forces. They expressed their common view that the Geneva conference must help in implementing the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 242.

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The two sides agree that it is important and necessary for the Soviet Union to participate in all stages of the settlement in the Middle East, including the working committees which the Geneva conference forms. The two sides agreed on the necessity of Palestinian participation in the Geneva conference.

Andrey Gromyko received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed matters connected with safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Their discussion was held in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding.

The Egyptian side received with appreciation the Soviet Union's preparedness in principle to participate in the repair work connected with the Suez Canal.

The two sides stress the necessity of exchanging views regularly and of coordinating steps between the two countries on all levels whether in the field of their bilateral relations or in connection with the international situation, particularly the developments through which the Middle East problem is passing. The two sides consider the meetings and discussions which took place during the visit to be an important contribution toward the continued deepening and consolidation of the friendly relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat renewed the invitation to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, in the name of the Soviet Government, invited the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Isma'il Fahmi, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. His excellency gratefully accepted the invitation. The two sides will agree on the date of the visit later.

Voice of Arabs on Relations

Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 5 Mar 74 L

[Sabri Subayhah commentary]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko to Cairo and his extremely important political and economic talks with President Anwar as-Sadat, Vice President Dr Mahmud Fawzi and Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi, we find it necessary to stress a number of points which we consider extremely important. The first point is that Egyptian-Soviet friendship is a strategic friendship. Over a period of almost 20 years it has managed to achieve many aims of the struggle. It has also managed to express itself forcefully in various fields, especially in the Arab confrontation with the Zionist and imperialist movement in the Arab area. In this confrontation Egypt has shouldered a greater measure of the responsibility. Great stands were adopted in the framework of this friendship and great developments took place in the Arab area in the framework of this friendship.

The second point is that if Egypt and the Arab nation, as a result of the October strike, managed to bring about some basic transformations in the strategy of the major international forces toward the Middle East area and toward the Arab nation in particular the pro-Arab Soviet stand has been one of the strong and influential factors which enable the Arab nation to assert its ability to effect these changes through the glorious October war.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FAHMI VISIT CONTINUES: BREZHNEV TO VISIT CAIRO

Brezhnev-Fahmi Talks

Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 15 Oct 74 L

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS--Agreement has been reached on holding in Cairo of a meeting between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Brezhnev and ARE President Anwar as-Sadat in January, 1975.

A statement to this effect is contained in the announcement on the meeting of Brezhnev together with USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko today with ARE Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi, who arrived in Moscow on Monday.

Fahmi delivered to Brezhnev a message from ARE President as-Sadat expressing the striving of the Egyptian leadership for a further development of friendly Soviet-Egyptian relations.

In the course of the conversation was stressed the determination of the Soviet Union and Egypt to continue to strengthen and develop relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between them. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 15 October, in reporting the Brezhnev-Fahmi meeting, adds at this point: "on the secure basis of the S. Viet-Egyptian agreement of 27 May 1971."]

Brezhnev again emphasized the invariability of the Soviet Union's principled course of every kind of support for the Arab people's struggle against imperialism, for the elimination of the aftermath of the Israeli aggression and for the establishment of strong and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Fahmi on behalf of the ARE, and of President as-Sadat personally, expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for the all-round assistance and support which it gives to Egypt in the strengthening of its national economy and defence potential, in the struggle against Israel's imperialist aggression, for the liberation of the occupied Arab lands.

The conviction of the sides is that another summit meeting of the leaders of the Soviet Union and Egypt must serve as a major step in the cause of development and strengthening of Soviet-Egyptian relations. During the conversation, a range of matters which could underlie future accords at such a meeting was defined.

[Moscow Radio adds at this point: "Present at the talks were Polyakov, USSR ambassador to Egypt, and (?Samoteykhin), adviser to the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, on the Soviet side and Isma'il, Egyptian ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Riyad, Egyptian undersecretary for foreign affairs; on the Egyptian side."]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1914 GMT on 15 October, carries an essentially identical report on the Brezhnev-Fahmi meeting, adding: "An Egyptian-Soviet working group is scheduled to hold a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, to discuss a program of future cooperation in the political, economic, trade and military fields between the two countries. Therefore, the visit which the Egyptian delegation is scheduled to make to Leningrad tomorrow will be cancelled."

["Isma'il Fahmi stated that there will be no further meetings between him and Brezhnev as a result of the full agreement reached in today's meetings."

["The Egyptian delegation is expected to leave Moscow for Cairo on Friday instead of Saturday as was previously scheduled."]